

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher in one or more liquid fill periods in a dishwasher cycle comprising:
 - activating the dishwasher drain pump to drain liquid from ~~said~~the dishwasher while continuing to operate the dishwasher circulation pump prior to the end of at least one liquid circulation period;
 - accumulating the time from the start of ~~said~~the drain pump operation until ~~said~~the circulation pump experiences a liquid starvation episode;
 - comparing ~~said~~the accumulated time period with a predetermined optimum time period for ~~said~~the circulation pump to experience liquid starvation;
 - using the difference between ~~said~~the accumulated time period and ~~said~~the predetermined optimum time period to adjust the amount of liquid added in the next liquid fill period; and
 - adding ~~said~~the adjusted amount of liquid during the next liquid fill period.
2. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 1, wherein the dishwasher has a controller including an adaptive fill memory and the amount of liquid added in liquid fill periods is ~~adaptively~~-adjusted in more than one liquid fill period, ~~said~~the method further comprising storing ~~said~~the adjusted liquid fill period amount of liquid in ~~an~~the adaptive fill memory ~~in the controller, for said dishwasher~~ and using ~~said~~the stored adjusted liquid fill period amount of liquid as the basis ~~for adjustment of~~to increase or decrease the adjusted amount of liquid for the next liquid fill period.
3. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 2, wherein the liquid fill periods have a duration

and the adjusted amount of liquid added in ~~an adjusted~~ a liquid fill period is increased or decreased by adjusting the duration of the liquid fill period.

4. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of according to~~ claim 2, wherein the adjusted amount of liquid added in ~~an adjusted~~ a liquid fill period is increased or decreased by controlling the amount of liquid added using a liquid flow meter.
5. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of according to~~ claim 2, wherein the amount of liquid added in the first liquid fill period ~~in a dishwasher cycle~~ following an interruption of the power supply ~~for~~ ~~to said the~~ dishwasher is predetermined to provide sufficient liquid for ~~said the~~ circulation pump to operate without experiencing liquid starvation prior to activation of ~~said the~~ drain pump under any operating conditions.
6. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of according to~~ claim 2, wherein the adaptive fill memory is non-volatile and said the adjusted liquid fill period amount of liquid is stored in the non-volatile adaptive fill memory, ~~of said controller~~ and wherein ~~the first liquid fill period following~~ ~~an interruption of the power supply for said dishwasher~~ the controller uses said the stored adjusted fill time period amount of liquid for ~~said the~~ first liquid fill period following an interruption of the power supply to the dishwasher.
7. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of according to~~ claim 2, wherein the amount of liquid added in each liquid fill period in said the dishwasher cycle is ~~adaptively~~ adjusted.
8. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of according to~~ claim 1, wherein said the circulation pump is deactivated after said the circulation pump experiences a liquid starvation episode, and said the drain pump is operated for an additional predetermined drain period after said the circulation

pump is deactivated to complete draining of liquid at the end of ~~said-the~~ liquid circulation period.

9. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 1, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump liquid starvation episode is detected by monitoring an operational condition of ~~said-the~~ circulation pump.
10. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 9, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation episode is detected by a sudden circulation pump pressure decrease.
11. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 9, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation episode is detected by a sudden circulation pump speed increase.
12. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 9, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation episode is detected by a sudden circulation pump motor torque decrease.
13. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 9, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation episode is detected by a sudden circulation pump motor current decrease.
14. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 9, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation episode is detected by a sudden circulation pump motor main winding phase lag increase.
15. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~-adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 9, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation episode is detected by a sudden circulation pump motor phase lag increase.

16. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 2, wherein an additional small amount of liquid is added to the ~~stored~~-adjusted ~~liquid fill period~~-amount of liquid stored in the adaptive fill memory for the first liquid fill period of a new dishwasher cycle to compensate for evaporation of residual wash liquid in ~~said~~the dishwasher between dishwasher cycles.
17. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 16, wherein a greater additional amount of liquid is added to the ~~stored~~-adjusted ~~liquid fill period~~-amount of liquid stored in the adaptive fill memory for the first liquid fill period of a new dishwasher cycle after ~~said~~the dishwasher has not been operated for ~~more than a few~~several days.
18. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 2, wherein an additional small amount of liquid is added to the ~~stored~~-adjusted ~~liquid fill period~~-amount of liquid stored in the adaptive fill memory for the first liquid fill period of a new dishwasher cycle to compensate for evaporation of residual wash liquid when the previous dishwasher cycle included a heated drying period.
19. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the controller includes fill cycle high and low limits to assure that an adjusted amount of liquid added must be is within greater than a minimum and less than a maximum limits for the amount of liquid added in a liquid fill period.
20. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 1, wherein the dishwasher has a controller and wherein absence of a circulation pump liquid starvation episode within a predetermined time following activation of said the drain pump infers a drain failure condition and causes the controller ~~for said~~the dishwasher to provide a drain failure indication and stop ~~said~~the dishwasher cycle.

21. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 1, wherein the dishwasher has a controller and occurrence of a circulation pump liquid starvation episode prior to activating ~~said~~the dishwasher drain pump causes the controller ~~for~~said dishwasher to infer an abnormal operating condition variable and causes ~~said~~the controller to take one or more actions selected from the group of: adding liquid to quell ~~said~~the liquid starvation episodes, shorten the current circulation sub-cycle, institute a predetermined liquid fill for the next fill sub-cycle, and add one or more additional fill, circulation and drain sub-cycle sequences to the dishwasher cycle.
22. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 1, wherein said method includes monitoring ~~said~~the circulation pump following addition of rinse-aid material to confirm the presence of rinse-aid material by detecting a change in an operational condition of ~~said~~the circulation pump compared to ~~normal~~the operational conditions of the circulation pump prior to the addition of the rinse-aid material.
23. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 22, wherein the dishwasher has a controller and wherein failure to detect presence of rinse-aid material causes the controller ~~for~~said dishwasher to take one or more actions selected from the group of causing the controller to attempt another addition of rinse-aid material and providing a fill rinse-aid dispenser signal.
24. (currently amended): A method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher in one or more liquid fill periods in one or more dishwasher cycles each including a plurality of liquid fill periods, a plurality of liquid circulation periods and a plurality of liquid drain periods operated by a controller comprising:
 - activate the dishwasher drain pump to drain liquid from ~~said~~the dishwasher while continuing to operate the dishwasher circulation pump near the end of at least one liquid circulation period;

monitor operation of the circulation pump to accumulate a circulation pump starvation period beginning with activation of ~~said-the~~ drain pump and ending when ~~said-the~~ circulation pump experiences a liquid starvation episode;

compare ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation period with a predetermined optimum time period for ~~said-the~~ circulation pump to experience liquid starvation to decrease or increase the amount of liquid added ~~to the adaptive in the previous~~ liquid fill period ~~amount of liquid~~ stored in ~~said-the~~ controller depending on whether ~~said-the~~ circulation pump starvation period is longer or shorter than ~~said-the~~ predetermined optimum time period;

deactivate ~~said-the~~ circulation pump after ~~said-the~~ circulation pump experiences a liquid starvation episode and continue to operate ~~said-the~~ drain pump to complete draining of ~~said-the~~ liquid at the end of ~~said-the~~ liquid circulation period;

store ~~said-the~~ adjusted adaptive liquid fill period amount of liquid in ~~said-the~~ controller for the next liquid fill period replacing the previous adaptive liquid fill period amount of liquid; and

~~implement add said-the adjusted adaptive liquid fill period adjusted amount of liquid in the next liquid fill period of saidthe dishwasher.~~

25. (currently amended): The method for adaptively adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of according to~~ claim 24, wherein ~~said-the~~ circulation pump liquid starvation episode is detected by monitoring a circulation pump operating parameter selected from the group consisting of detecting: a sudden decrease in circulation pump pressure, a sudden increase in circulation pump motor speed, a sudden decrease in circulation pump motor torque, a sudden decrease in circulation pump motor current, a sudden increase in circulation pump motor main winding phase lag, or a sudden increase in circulation pump motor total phase lag.

26. (currently amended): The method for adaptively adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of according to~~ claim 24, wherein each liquid fill period in each of ~~said the~~ dishwasher cycles is adaptively adjusted.

27. (currently amended): The method for ~~adaptively~~ adjusting the amount of liquid added to a dishwasher ~~of~~according to claim 24, wherein the circulation pump is allowed to continue to operate for a preset time after detection of ~~said~~the liquid starvation episode.

28. (withdrawn): An automatic dishwasher including:
a circulation pump and motor for circulating liquid in said dishwasher during circulation periods;
a drain pump and motor for pumping liquid from said dishwasher during drain periods;
a fill valve for controlling flow of liquid into said dishwasher during liquid fill periods;
a controller for operating said circulation pump motor and said drain pump motor in one or more dishwashing cycles each having one or more circulation periods, one or more drain periods and one or more liquid fill periods and having an adaptive fill control for determining the amount of liquid added to said dishwasher in said liquid fill periods arranged to operate said fill valve for a preprogrammed liquid fill period or an adaptive liquid fill period; said adaptive fill control comprising:
a sensor for detecting when said circulation pump experiences a liquid starvation episode after said drain pump is activated while said circulation pump continues to operate near the end of a circulation period;
a microprocessor arranged to:
accumulate a liquid starvation time period beginning with said drain pump activation and ending when said circulation pump experiences a liquid starvation episode;
compute the sign and magnitude of the difference between said liquid starvation time period and a predetermined optimum time period for said circulation pump to experience liquid starvation;
apply an algorithm to said computed difference to adjust the adaptive liquid fill period stored in an adaptive fill memory to increase or decrease the amount of liquid added in the previous liquid fill period based on said sign and difference between said liquid starvation time period and said predetermined optimum time period; and

store said adjusted adaptive liquid fill period in said adaptive fill memory for use in the next liquid fill period.

29. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said sensor for detecting when said circulation pump experiences a liquid starvation episode is selected from the group consisting of a pressure sensor for detecting a sudden decrease in circulation pump pressure, a tachometer for detecting a sudden increase in circulation pump motor speed, a power sensor for detecting a sudden decrease in circulation pump motor torque, a current sensor for detecting a sudden decrease in circulation pump motor current, a saturating ferrite transformer sensor for detecting a sudden increase in circulation pump motor main winding phase lag, or a saturating ferrite transformer sensor for detecting a sudden increase in circulation pump motor total phase lag.
30. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said adaptive control applies said preprogrammed liquid fill period for the first liquid fill period in a dishwasher cycle following an interruption of the power supply to said dishwasher, and applies an adjusted adaptive liquid fill period for all liquid fill periods after a first liquid fill period after a power interruption to said dishwasher.
31. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said adaptive fill memory is a non-volatile memory for storing said adjusted liquid fill period and said adaptive fill control applies said stored adjusted adaptive liquid fill period for the first liquid fill period after a power interruption to said dishwasher.
32. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said controller includes a drain failure indicator and wherein said microprocessor is arranged to infer a drain failure condition from the absence of a circulation pump liquid starvation episode within a predetermined time following activation of said drain pump.
33. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said controller is arranged to detect liquid starvation episodes prior to activation of said drain pump while said

circulation pump is operating and to infer an abnormal operating condition variable and to cause said controller to take one or more actions selected from the group of adding liquid to quell said liquid starvation episodes, shorten the current circulation sub-cycle, institute a predetermined liquid fill for the next fill sub-cycle, add one or more additional fill, circulation and drain sub-cycle sequences to the dishwasher cycle

34. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said controller is arranged to cause a rinse-aid dispenser to dose rinse-aid material in connection with a rinse sub-cycle and said controller and said sensor are arranged to monitor circulation pump operating conditions following addition of said rinse-aid material to confirm the presence of rinse-aid material by detecting a change in a circulation pump operating parameter selected from the group of a decrease in circulation pump pressure, an increase in circulation pump motor speed, a decrease in circulation pump motor torque, a decrease in circulation pump motor current, an increase in circulation pump motor main winding phase lag, or an increase in circulation pump motor total phase lag compared to normal.
35. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 34 wherein said controller is arranged to take one or more actions upon failure to detect presence of rinse-aid material selected from the group of causing the controller to attempt another addition of rinse-aid material and providing a fill rinse-aid dispenser signal.
36. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said adaptive fill control controls the amount of liquid added in a liquid fill period by controlling the length of time said fill valve is operated.
37. (withdrawn): The dishwasher of claim 28 wherein said dishwasher includes a liquid flow meter connected in liquid circuit with said fill valve arranged to provide a signal to said microprocessor representing the amount of liquid that has passed through said flow meter and said adaptive fill control controls the amount of liquid added in a liquid fill

period by operating said fill valve until said adjusted amount of liquid has been added to said dishwasher.